Passenger Vehicles and Off-Highway Motor Vehicles

Why am I being warned about potential exposure to chemicals from passenger vehicles and off-highway motor vehicles?

- Some chemicals from passenger vehicles and off-highway motor vehicles are on the Proposition 65 list because they can cause cancer and/or birth defects or other reproductive harm.
- Proposition 65 requires businesses to determine if they must provide a warning about exposures to listed chemicals.

Passenger vehicles and off-highway motor vehicles can expose you to chemicals on the Proposition 65 list when they are used, operated, serviced, or maintained.

- These chemicals include carbon monoxide and engine exhaust, which are produced when vehicles burn fuel (gasoline and diesel fuel); some phthalates, which are used to make plastics flexible in vehicle upholstery and interiors; and lead, which can be found in lead-acid batteries and some vehicle parts.

How does exposure to chemicals on the Proposition 65 list occur from passenger vehicles and off-highway motor vehicles?

- During pregnancy, some chemicals from passenger vehicles or off-highway motor vehicles can pass from mother to baby.
How can I reduce my exposure to chemicals from the Proposition 65 list from passenger vehicles and off-highway motor vehicles?

✓ When refueling your vehicle, avoid skin contact with fuel. Stand a few steps away from the nozzle to reduce exposure to any fuel vapors that may be released to the air.

✓ Minimize your exposure to exhaust from the engines of passenger and off-highway motor vehicles.
  ▶ Always start and operate vehicle engines in a well-ventilated area.
  ▶ Avoid idling vehicle engines, where possible.
  ▶ Whenever practical, do not stand next to operating vehicle engines. Distance yourself from the source of the exhaust.
  ▶ Keep your vehicle engine running cleanly by performing regular maintenance as recommended by the vehicle’s manufacturer.

✓ Wear gloves when servicing or maintaining vehicles, and work in a well-ventilated area.

✓ Wash your hands after servicing vehicles or pumping gasoline, and before preparing food and eating.

✓ Assure adequate ventilation inside your vehicle. Open the windows and doors of your vehicle when it is new, and do so regularly thereafter to bring in outdoor air. In general, set the ventilation system to allow the entry of air from outside the vehicle when driving.

✓ Wipe up dust in your vehicle regularly, using a damp cloth, or a vacuum cleaner with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter.

For more information:

General Fact Sheets and Resources
- US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)
  ▶ What You Can Do to Reduce Pollution from Vehicles and Engines
- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
  California Air Resources Board (CARB)
  ▶ Car and Bus Exposure Studies
    https://www.arb.ca.gov/research/indoor/carbus.htm
- CalRecycle
  ▶ Lead-Acid Batteries – Hazards and Responsible Use
    https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/Publications/Details/817
  ▶ Local Government Household Hazardous Waste Websites
    https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/Directory/
- Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
  ▶ Carbon Monoxide
    https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets/carbon-monoxide
  ▶ Diesel Engine Exhaust
    https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets/diesel-engine-exhaust
Formaldehyde
https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets/formaldehyde

Gasoline Engine Exhaust
https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets/gasoline-engine-exhaust

Phthalates
https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets/phthalates

Lead and Lead Compounds
https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets/lead-and-lead-compounds

Underwriters Laboratories (UL)
Vehicle Interior Air Quality: Addressing Chemical Exposure in Automobiles

Proposition 65
California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)

Proposition 65: Background
https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/faq

Proposition 65: The Chemical List
https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/chemicals